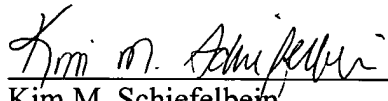


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Of:)	
)	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
Christopher M. Hofmeister)	
)	I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
Application No. 09/707,610)	deposited with the United States Postal Service
)	with sufficient postage as first class mail in an
Filed: 11/7/2000)	envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR
)	PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-
Group Art Unit: 3761)	1450, this <u>18th</u> day of <u>January</u> , <u>2005</u> .
)	
WETNESS MONITORING SYSTEM)	
)	
)	<u>Kim M. Schiefelbein</u> <u>1-18-05</u>
)	Date

RESPONSE

This is responsive to an Official Action dated November 4, 2004. Claims 1-30 are pending. The Undersigned would like to thank Examiner Stevens for taking the time to discuss this Office Action on December 21, 2004.

In the Office Action the Examiner initially rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-19 as being anticipated under 102(b) by Kawarizadeh, U.S. Patent No. 5,903,222, but found Claims 14 and 20-30 allowable. The Examiner states that Kawarizadeh discloses a wetness monitoring system 10, 20, 40, comprising a sensor, conductors, absorbent material 18 extending between the conductors, a data collector comprising a compiling processor 92, electric circuit 14, 24, communication device 89, and power source (col. 9, lines 2-24). The Examiner further states that Kawarizadeh further comprises a control

station having a receiver 89, control processor 82, and an associated memory containing a predetermined wetness value (col. 6, line 8 through col. 7, line 27).

As discussed with the Examiner Stevens, Claim 1 of the subject application requires a data collector that obtains and transmits wetness measurement data to a control station having a control processor with an associated memory containing a predetermined wetness value. The control process is programmed to compare each of the wetness measurement data with the predetermined wetness value, and to determine if a wetness event has occurred based on these comparisons.

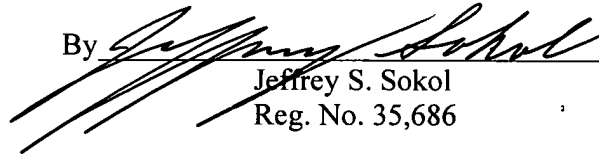
As further discussed with the Examiner, Kawarizadeh discloses a wetness sensor 60 with a transmitter 78 such as the Model FA203S made by Inovonics Corporation. (Col. 12, line 50). Yet, the Model FA203S is a “Single Button” or on/off transmitter as indicated in the Inovonics Technical Information Bulletin being simultaneously submitted in an accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Such a transmitter would not send wetness measurement data. Kawarizadeh also discloses that the predetermined value is associated with the sensor 60, not the control station. (Abstract, lines 4-10). Accordingly, Kawarizadeh does not anticipate Claim 1, or render it obvious. In addition, Claims 2-13 and 15-19 depend from Claim 1, and are patentable over Kawarizadeh.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-13 and 15-19, and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned should this facilitate examination and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Sokol", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey S. Sokol
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